

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01586 192134Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----200230Z 092231 /64
R 192119Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3679
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1586

EXDIS

FROM DEP PERM REP LEONARD

DEPT PASS ACDA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, IN, UN
SUBJECT: INDIA'S NUCLEAR POLICIES/DISARMAMENT ISSUES

1. IN BRIEF CORRIDOR CONVERSATION MAY 18, LEONARD ASKED INDIAN PERMREP JAIPAL IF HE HAD ANY CLARIFICATION OF PRIMIN DESAI'S VARIOUS COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR TESTS, ESPECIALLY RECENT ONE ON INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION OF ANY INDIAN PNE. JAIPAL SAID THAT DESAI WAS VOICING LONG-STANDING INDIAN POLICY OF WILLINGNESS TO HAVE ITS PNE'S OBSERVED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. HE PERSONALLY DOUBTED THAT THERE WERE GOING TO BE ANY MORE INDIAN TESTS. HE UNDERLINED THAT DESAI HAD SAID "IF WE TEST" AND NOT "WHEN WE TEST." JAIPAL SAID HE THOUGHT NEW GOVERNMENT WAS MOVING TO A POSITION IN WHICH IT WOULD CONDUCT ITSELF AS IF BOUND BY THE NPT THOUGH IT WOULD STILL NOT SIGN THE NPT BECAUSE OF ITS WELL-KNOWN OBJECTIONS TO CERTAIN NPT PROVISIONS. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO "TAKE UP THIS MATTER" WITH INDIA.

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2. LEONARD SAID HE HAD BEEN WONDERING IF THIS WAS THE CASE, BUT HAD THOUGHT NEW AMBASSADOR SHOULD PERHAPS MOVE DELIBERATELY, BUILDING SOME RELATIONSHIP WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER FIRST ON OTHER LESS SENSITIVE QUESTIONS. JAIPAL INTERVENED TO URGE THAT MATTER NOT RPT NOT BE TAKEN UP WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BUT

ONLY DIRECTLY WITH DESAI. HE EXPLAINED THAT ATOMIC ENERGY COMES UNDER PRIME MINISTER BUT HIS MANNER SUGGESTED THAT HE MAY FEAR VAJPAYEE IS LESS SYMPATHETIC TO POSITIVE REVISIONS IN INDIA'S NUCLEAR POLICIES.

3. COMMENT: JAIPAL HAS BEEN VERY DIFFERENT PERSON SINCE INDIAN ELECTION, MOST HELPFUL ON OUR SOUTHERN AFRICA PROBLEMS AND APPARENTLY DESIROUS OF MOVING INDIA IN BETTER DIRECTION ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES. HIS RECENT SPEECH IN SSOD PREPCOM THOUGH CAUTIOUS AND VAGUE HAD SEVERAL ELEMENTS WE WOULD NOT LIKELY HAVE SEEN IN AN INDIAN DOCUMENT SIX MONTHS AGO. (TEXT BEING POUCHED TO DEPT.) IF DEPT CONSIDERS AN APPROACH TO DESAI BY AMB GOHEEN TO BE DESIRABLE WE URGE THAT USUN BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON ITS MAIN LINES.
LEONARD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO ACDA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NPT, DISARMAMENT, POLICIES, NUCLEAR TESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN01586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770179-0763
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770538/aaaabgrl.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bac6cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2445713
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIA'S NUCLEAR POLICIES/DISARMAMENT ISSUES
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, TECH, IN, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bac6cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009